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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: (U) Soviet Union (UR)

REPORT NO: (U) 2-196-0361-85

TITLE: (U) G2 Brief East Information, No. 6/85
 "Soviet BM-27 220mm Multiple Rocket Launcher"

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SOURCE: (U) 2210-0012, a GE military agency which consistently provides accurate intelligence analysis and assessments.

SUMMARY: (C) Attached is G2 Brief East Information Technical Report No. 6/85 on the "Soviet BM-27 220mm Multiple Rocket Launcher". Technical lay-out and data are provided, with a brief introduction of the weapon and an assessment.

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THE SOVIET BM-27 220mm MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER

1. Introduction

The heavy BM-27 220mm multiple rocket launcher was first observed in the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany (GSFG) in 1977. Presently the 207th Rocket Artillery Brigade of the GSFG's 34th Artillery Division has more than 72 launchers at its disposal. This brigade is presumed to be under reorganization since 1983. Four battalions with 18 launchers each are being regrouped into three battalions with 24 launchers each. The multiple rocket launcher battery now possesses eight instead of six launchers. In comparison, the artillery division of the military districts only has 36 launchers.

2. Technical Lay-Out

A modified ZIL-135 serves as the chassis for the BM-27.

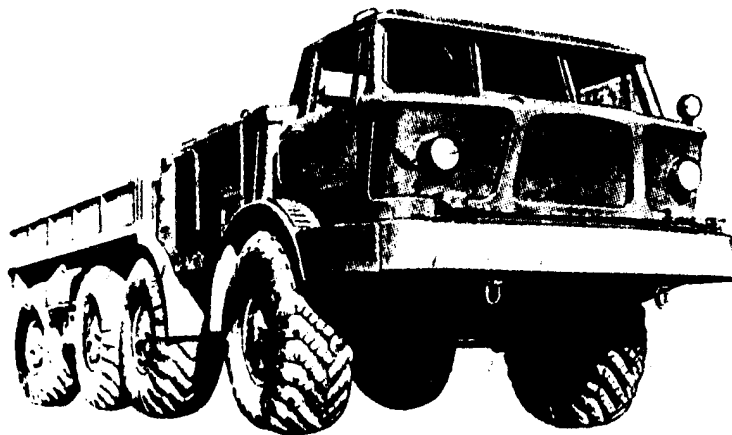


Illustration 1: ZIL-135 Carrier Vehicle

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For fire warfare the launcher is supported by four props on the ground. This is necessary to reduce the swininging motion of the weapon when it is fired.

The launching system is made of 16 barrels in three rows. The bottom two rows have six barrels each and the top row four.

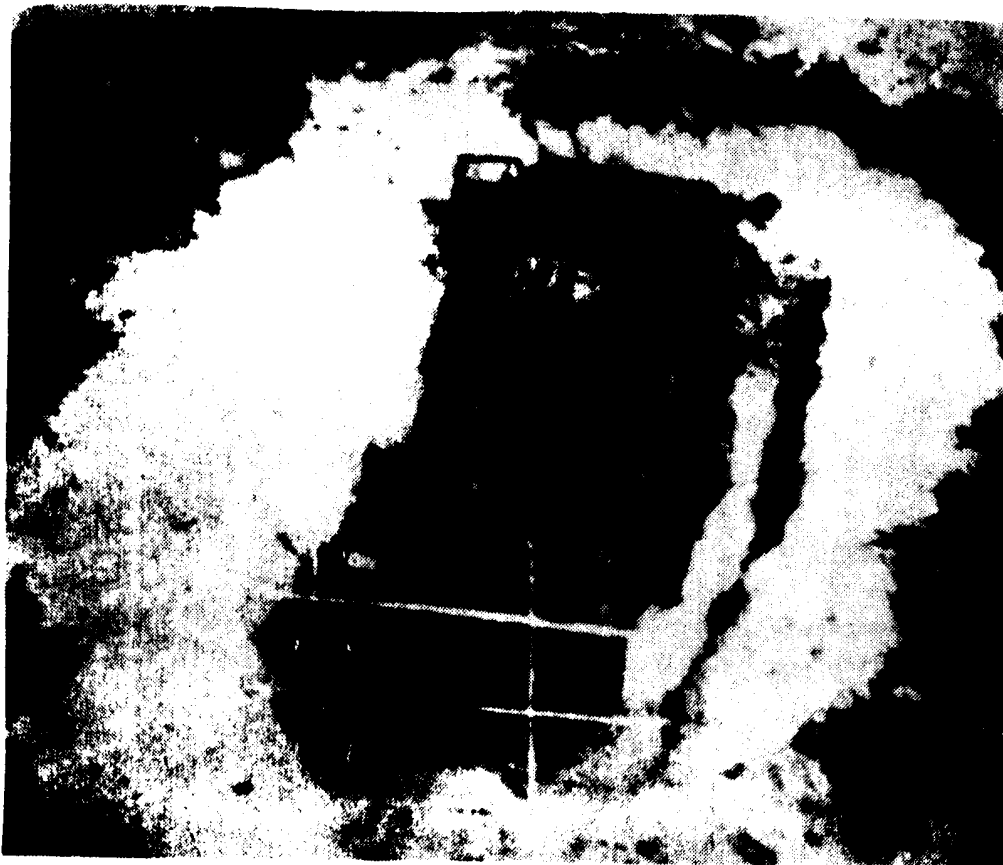


Illustration 2: BM-27 220mm multiple rocket launcher in firing position.

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The launching barrels put the fired rockets into rotation around the longitudinal axis. Through this spinning stability, the circle of equal probability (CEP) will reach 340 meters at two-thirds its maximum range.

Each missile is individually reloaded with the crane of the reloading vehicle. This modified ZIL-135 carries 16 rockets. Eight to ten minutes are required to reload the rockets.

3. Technical Data

Rockets:	caliber	220 mm
	length	4,800 mm
	weight	300-310 kg (depending on warhead)
	propulsion	solid fuel motor
	minimum range	5,000 m
	maximum range	40,000 m
	combustion speed	700-800 m/second
	CEP at 2/3 the max. range	340 m
	warhead	high explosive, chemical, anti-tank mine, anti-personnel mine, bomblet
Launcher equipment:	barrel length	5,100 mm
	number of barrels	16
	field of elevation	
	- side	240°
	- height	0-50°
	firing speed	max. 16 shots in 8 seconds
	reloading time	8-10 minutes
Carrier vehicle:	ZIL-135 (8x8) modified	
	length	9,700 mm
	width	2,800 mm
	height	3,200 mm
	weight	22.7 tons
	maximum speed	70 km/hour
	driving area	500 km
	crew	four men

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Reloading vehicle: ZIL-135 (8x8) modified with loading crane

length	10,200 mm
width	2,800 mm
number of transported rockets	16

4. Assessment

The effective radius of a splinter explosive warhead is ca. 50 meters.
Typical target sizes for the BM-27 are:

battery target (8 rockets) - ca. 900 x 900 m
battalion target (24 rockets) - ca. 1,500 x 1,500 m
brigade target (72 rockets) - ca. 2,700 x 2,700 m

Mine fields up to 4,500 meters wide can be eliminated by a BM-27
brigade. The deeply-laid mines are detonated by the amount of
munition and its dispersion.

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